

have easily carried on, but she said 'no, I made that promise and I'm going to stick with that promise.'"

I was always impressed by her unwavering ideological positions, even if sometimes they were unpopular. I learned that she was driven by a clearly defined and articulated philosophy that allowed her to stand strong in the middle of a storm of criticism and persist in forcing changes for the betterment of Idaho and the Nation.

She was a strong advocate for the American people and a true believer in the balance of powers. During the Balkan crisis in the 1990s, she argued for the involvement of the legislative branch, writing, "Congress played no role in defining those political aims, which means that the American people—in whose name Congress is empowered to act—were not permitted to play any role in the decision to commit our Nation to war." She was known for quoting the Founders when giving her arguments, pulling her colleagues back to our Nation's constitutional roots if they were veering in another direction. On this same issue she quoted Alexander Hamilton writing, "It is the province and duty of the Executive to preserve to the Nation the blessings of peace. The Legislature alone can interrupt those blessings, by placing the Nation in a state of War."

Helen Chenoweth was a champion for property rights and constitutional government. She fought hard for the rights of property owners and against the heavy hand of Federal regulation and taxation that affected family farms, ranches, and businesses. In Idaho she was known as a "true environmentalist" who worked to preserve Idaho's natural beauty while also balancing the rights and needs of humans. Her passion and hard work demonstrated her belief in the inalienable rights of all citizens, and she fought to keep them protected by the U.S. Constitution.

On September 21, 2000, she was awarded the first "Friend of American Freedom Award" by the National Center For Public Policy Research and the Committee For a Constructive Tomorrow. The award honored Congressman Chenoweth's "distinguished record of defending the United States against environmental treaties, United Nations programs and other global policies that pose a threat to the Nation's sovereignty." Particular appreciation was given for her work on the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act, which would require the executive branch to seek Congressional approval before designating any U.S. landmark as a world heritage site. The director of the National Center's Environmental Policy Task Force said of Helen, "Congressman Chenoweth-Hage has been one of the leading champions of U.S. sovereignty and the U.S. Constitution during her 6-year tenure in Congress. The 'Friend of American Freedom Award' represents our profound thanks to the Congressman for her valiant

work defending constitutional liberties."

While I served as chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management, she served as chairman of the House Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health. I enjoyed this opportunity to work together on land management issues such as the Roadless Initiative. We shared a passion to protect our great western lands. Much of her work survives in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act.

Helen was a strong advocate for women and families. She supported funding for women's health and also for family health care. Many women looked up to her as a woman politician who earned every bit of respect she received and held her ground in an environment predominately of men. She was known as a true feminist who never asked for special treatment because of her gender.

Even after her retirement from Congress she worked tirelessly with her husband, Nevada rancher Wayne Hage, in the lawsuit Hage vs. U.S. Wayne had purchased his ranch in 1978 and testified that over the years Federal agency interference made it nearly impossible to run a livestock operation and ultimately resulted in the taking of his ranch. Wayne and Helen's court victory was a triumph for all private property owners.

Helen Chenoweth-Hage was not only a great politician; she was also a loving wife and mother and a loyal friend. Her strong Christian faith inspired many, guided her throughout her life, and served as a base on which she built her philosophy. Among her many endearing qualities were her unfailing graciousness, charm, and her warm smile. She will be sorely missed, not only by her children and other family members, but by legions of friends, colleagues, and admirers.

Let me end by quoting her daughter Meg Keenan, who spoke for many of us when she said: "Helen was the most amazing, gracious person I ever had the privilege to know. She was fearless in life, and I know she welcomes the opportunity to be in the presence of God the Father."

2005 COUNTRY REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to express my deep distress about the human rights violations reportedly committed in the Philippines. The U.S. Department of State's 2005 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in the Philippines, released in March 2006, is a very troubling account and, at times, a cynical report on the current state of Philippine human rights problems. The Report cites the Philippine National Police as the worst abuser of human rights in the country, and it describes numerous violations, including extrajudicial

killings, disappearances, and physical abuse of suspects and detainees. It cites instances of torture, arbitrary arrests, trafficking of persons, and harassment of human rights personnel and political activists.

In light of the report's troubling findings, I respectfully urge my colleagues to review this document and recognize the significance of these extremely serious transgressions.

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I would like to discuss today the gross misconduct of the Australian Wheat Board in its dealings with Saddam Hussein under the U.N. Oil for Food Program and to introduce legislation regarding the potential impact AWB's actions may have had U.S. farmers.

Last week, a commission in Australia led by former Supreme Court Justice Terence Cole released a detailed report documenting extensive corruption, fraud, and deceit on the part of the Australian Wheat Board, commonly called AWB. The report showed that AWB paid more than \$221 million in under-the-table kickbacks to the Hussein regime to secure exclusive, illegal access to the Iraqi wheat market. I applaud Sir Terence Cole and his commission for the thorough and comprehensive manner in which they have dealt with this issue.

As chairman of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, I conducted an investigation for almost 3 years into abuses of the U.N. Oil-for-Food Program. During my investigation, I held numerous hearings and issued several detailed reports that exposed significant graft associated with the program.

In particular, my subcommittee exposed corruption involving public officials from the United Kingdom, Russia, France and the United Nations, along with corrupt transactions by companies in the United States, United Kingdom, and elsewhere around the world.

However, when my subcommittee considered investigating the AWB, we faced insurmountable legal challenges that prevented us from initiating the kind of exhaustive review that this case required. Unlike other foreign entities that voluntarily cooperated with the subcommittee's efforts, AWB declined to cooperate with the subcommittee by providing documents or witnesses. Given that AWB is a foreign entity, the subcommittee could not compel its cooperation through subpoenas.

Moreover, the U.N.'s investigators at the Independent Inquiry Committee issued a report in October 2004, which suggested that it would examine AWB's transactions along with the other deals executed under the program. Unlike the subcommittee's efforts, that inquiry would have complete access to U.N. files and unfettered access to documents from relevant Iraqi ministries and would likely have access to the files and banking records of AWB.

Instead of launching a duplicative investigation with no ability to compel the AWB to cooperate, I encouraged the Australian Government and the AWB to cooperate with the IIC and the Cole inquiry whose findings have just been released.

The Cole report has left me with a few lingering questions to which I plan to find some answers. My subcommittee is continuing its review of the Cole report to determine whether U.S. affiliates of the AWB should be held accountable here in the United States.

But the most important question to ask in the wake of the Cole report's findings is whether American wheat farmers have suffered as a result of the fraud and abuse on the part of the monopolistic AWB. I am introducing legislation today to address that question, and if we find proof of harm, to make our farmers whole.

I would like to introduce today the Australian Wheat Board Accountability Act of 2006. The purpose of this legislation is just that: to hold the Australian Wheat Board accountable for their illegal, deceitful, trade-distorting actions. The bill directs the Office of U.S. Trade Representative to use its authority to investigate and combat these practices.

This legislation is a simple bill with two distinct elements. First, the bill directs USTR to investigate whether U.S. wheat farmers have suffered economic damage due to the actions of the Australian Wheat Board. Second, if we find harm, we seek compensation.

I have spoken many times on this floor about the great experiences I have had meeting with farmers of my State. I just finished traveling to all 87 counties in Minnesota this year, and I will be the first to tell this body that some of the most enriching visits I had took place with farmers. Those who make a living by working the land, Mr. President. Those who produce the food and fiber of our Nation and have done so for generations. Those who contribute so much to the social fabric we hold so dear.

And they don't ask for much in return. They didn't ask me to come to the floor today or to introduce this legislation. All they ask is that when it comes to trade, everyone ought to play by the same rules. They want a level playing field because they know they can compete with anyone in a fair global market.

The fact is the Australian Wheat Board hasn't been playing by the rules. The Cole report has proven that the AWB unfairly monopolized wheat exports to Iraq under the Oil for Food Program. By paying Saddam and his henchmen millions in illegal kickbacks, they may have distorted the wheat market to the detriment of the honest, hard-working farmers across Minnesota and the United States while they reaped the benefits of a corrupt regime for their own ill-gotten gain.

I intend to find out if AWB's criminal actions hurt the bottom lines of our

farmers, and that is what part one of this legislation does.

Part two of this legislation is about compensation. Under this bill, if it is found that our wheat farmers have suffered economic damage, USTR will seek appropriate compensation to make our farmers whole. If we cannot come to a negotiated settlement, we will impose duties on certain Australian goods until we collect a sum equivalent to the financial loss brought on by the AWB. Either way, I want any possibility of financial loss looked at, and if proven, I want compensation for our farmers.

Mr. President, I realize this is the final week of the 109th Congress and that this legislation probably doesn't make the priority list for passage this week. You can bet I will be back here again when we reconvene in January offering this bill in the 110th Congress. We owe it to our farmers to further investigate AWB's actions, and this legislation will make that happen.

PANDEMIC AND ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS ACT

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wanted to give my thanks to Senators BURR and KENNEDY for working with me and my esteemed colleagues, Senators COCHRAN, OBAMA, KOHL, and LANDRIEU, to pass a bill that together makes a difference to the health and well-being of Americans in the event of a public health emergency—natural or man-made. We saw in Hurricane Katrina that local, State, and Federal governments were not adequately prepared for a situation that could have been much worse. Also, much of the public was not prepared and could not get out of harm's way because of issues of capacity and trust. Regardless of our preparation then, it is clear that the government and the public must become better prepared now. We must come up with a disaster preparedness and response system which does a better job of knowing what is happening not in government cubicles but on the ground, which is able to prioritize the allocation and delivery of finite resources, and which utilizes our cumulative man and woman-power to work together to get anything that needs to be done, done.

This is not a perfect bill, but S. 3678, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, does improve the ability of the Federal Government to coordinate response to emergencies and disasters. It centralizes command and control of Federal public health and medical emergency response and for the first time ever, lists the needs of at-risk individuals in emergencies as a national preparedness goal.

Considering the needs of at-risk populations in public health emergencies and disasters is perhaps the most vital way to reduce casualties when treatment options are limited, environmental exposures place the public at risk and or when evacuation is nec-

essary to get people out of harm's way. In disasters, the burden of casualties almost always fall on populations with unequal ability to protect themselves. These populations are termed special-needs populations, at-risk populations or at-risk individuals. They are populations who possess unique needs or limitations and may as a result not be able to receive, comprehend, or respond to public health messaging during emergencies in the way that best supports their safety and well-being. They are populations that may not be able to fully address their own preparedness for, response to, and recovery from public health emergencies. At-risk individuals include the elderly, children, pregnant women, the poor, disabled, individuals with limited English proficiency, and others. Forty million Americans are over 65 years old, a number that will reach 71 million by 2030. There are over 70 million children under age 18. There are approximately 7 million pregnant women. Fourteen percent of Americans are limited in activity due to a chronic health condition.

I thank Senators BURR and KENNEDY for having the vision to address at-risk individuals in S. 3678 but also the willingness to work with Senators COCHRAN, OBAMA, KOHL, and LANDRIEU and me to make the language concerning at-risk individuals even stronger. The Lieberman-Cochran amendment, which has been incorporated into the final S. 3678 managers' package, publicly designates a person with a budget, who would ideally be called the Director Office of At-Risk Individuals, to oversee the implementation of the national preparedness goal concerning at-risk individuals; assist Federal agencies responsible with planning for, responding to, and recovering from public health emergencies in addressing the needs of at-risk individuals; provide guidance to State and local public health grant recipients as to how to incorporate the needs of at-risk individuals in emergency preparedness and response strategies; and develop and disseminate best principles and practices regarding outreach to and care of at-risk individuals in public health emergencies.

Senators COCHRAN, OBAMA, KOHL, and LANDRIEU and I believe that a new director of At-Risk Individuals will be a great resource to the Assistant Secretary in keeping the needs of at-risk individuals central as the Secretary works to implement the Nation's disaster preparedness goals across the Federal agencies. In the past, the Nation has not done enough to break down the artificial silos between the agencies charged with the health aspects of disaster planning and response, which is vital for the public in general but particularly to at-risk individuals in disasters. At-risk individuals are not monolithic, and their identities change depending upon the type, location, and character of disasters. Yet they are many, and their existence poses consistent challenges which must be addressed. These groups include people